



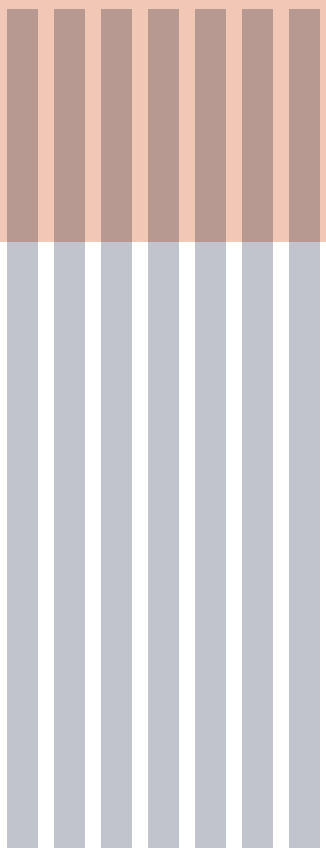


THE WISDOM OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Daily Readings

- 01 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
- 02 1 Corinthians 2:11-16
- 03 Proverbs 28:4-5
- 04 Isaiah 40:12-14
- 05 1 Peter 5:8
- 06 Romans 11:33-36
- 07 Ezekiel 20:41-42



WEEK 4

The Wisdom of the Spirit

Paul argues that wisdom comes from God. This wisdom shaped by the cross leads to a different way of life than what the world offers. This life shaped by the cross confounds the wisdom of the world which was embraced by the people of Corinth. This leads to obvious questions—why do so many seemingly wise people reject God’s wisdom if it leads to a better way of life? Why do the intellectuals, the wealthy, and the powerful look down on this kind of life as foolishness?

Paul addresses these questions, teaching that it takes a different kind of mind to see God’s wisdom—a mind shaped by God’s Spirit. People don’t live neutral lives; they ultimately live in right relation to God or live separated from Him. This affects how they see and understand reality. The gift of the Spirit comes from Christ to those who trust Him. The wisdom of God’s Spirit working in us allows us to see and accept things we would not have otherwise.

GOD'S WISDOM REVEALED BY THE SPIRIT

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.⁷ No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.⁹ However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived”—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—

¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

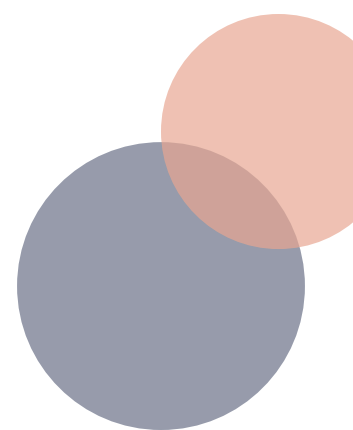
¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments,¹⁶ for,

“Who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.



“After the initial break with sin that the Holy Spirit brings about in our lives at conversion, he also produces in us growth in holiness of life. He brings forth the “fruit of the Spirit” within us (“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control,” Galatians 5:22-23), those qualities that reflect the character of God. As we continually “are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another,” we should be reminded that “this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18). Sanctification comes by the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; cf. Romans 8:4, 15-16), so that it is “by the Spirit” that we are able to “put to death the deeds of the body” and grow in personal holiness (Romans 8:13; see 7:6; Philippians 1:19).”

WAYNE GRUDEM | *SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY*



WARM UP

Choose one vehicle that best describes you. Then choose a vehicle that best describes other members of your group.

- Sports Car
- SUV (4-wheel drive, offroad)
- Suburban or Minivan
- Low-rider with a loud subwoofer
- Electric Vehicle
- Antique Car
- Pickup Truck
- Luxury Car
- Good used car (low mileage, dependable)
- Other

Have you ever been given sage advice that you ignored and lived to regret it? Be prepared to share this with your group.

EXPLORING 1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-16

What are a few differences between human wisdom and the wisdom of God? Do you feel pity for those who have no regard for God's wisdom?

Verses 6-10 remind us that the plan of salvation was initiated by God the Father, implemented by His Son, and revealed to us by the Spirit. The culmination of God's blessing of salvation is found in verse 9. Does this verse foster a sense of hope and assurance within you? Have you shared this verse with others?

According to the Scriptures, we receive the Holy Spirit when we trust Christ as our Savior. Do we fully recognize and access the true power of the Holy Spirit within us? Why not? How do we become more sensitive to the guidance and power of the Spirit within us?

What do verses 14-16 convey concerning the Holy Spirit's role in applying God's wisdom?

APPLICATION

This week, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you distinguish between human wisdom and the wisdom of God in the situations you face.

PRAYER

List one or two prayer concerns to share with your group.

THE WISDOM OF LEADERSHIP THAT LASTS



1 Corinthians 3:1-22